

can be established. Some of the names in this work that have been presented by societies such as the American Carnation Society and the Chrysanthemum Society are documented at least to originator but even in these the date is sometimes omitted. Unless there is maintained a specimen voucher or an adequate illustration we believe that it will be impossible at some future date to check against errors in identification and the misuse of names. The majority of the names used in the work give no evidence of supplying any basis whereby priority may be established if one should choose to apply it. To put horticultural names in a position to be standardized would require a major revolution in the practices of horticulturists with respect to giving and documenting the names of their plants. A system could be worked out by a qualified international committee for documenting names already in use and rules might be set up to which, in the future, authors would be required to conform. We are not concerned in nomenclature with the allocation of credit or honor for discovery or horticultural selection, we are concerned with responsibility for applying the correct name to a plant.

There are many more points that might be discussed in connection with this work and there is much that deserves credit. The chief criticism to be leveled against it is that the committee conceived of its problem as being one of giving plants names rather than one of proposing methods whereby the horticulturist could adjust his practices in naming plants so that standardization would be possible and nomenclature could be stabilized in as simple and dignified a manner as possible.—HERBERT L. MASON, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley, California.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY

January 22, 1942. Meeting, 103 Wheeler Hall, University of California, Berkeley, at 7:45 P.M. The retiring president, Professor E. B. Babcock, opened the meeting. Dr. Mildred E. Mathias requested, with regret, that the nominating committee withdraw her name from the list of nominations for 1942. The name of C. R. Quick was substituted by due process for nomination to the secretaryship. The following new officers were installed: Dr. Alva R. Davis, President; Dr. Palmer Stockwell, First Vice-President; Dr. Reed C. Rollins, Second Vice-President; Mr. Clarence R. Quick, Secretary; Dr. William M. Heisey, Treasurer. Dr. Davis, incoming president, introduced Dr. Reed C. Rollins, Instructor in Botany, Stanford University, who presented an interesting illustrated lecture on "The geographical distribution, speciation, and natural variation in *Arabis* and other Cruciferae."